



Hong Kong College of Paediatricians  
香港兒科醫學院



## Call for Application of First Fellows of the Subspecialty of Paediatric Immunology and Infectious Diseases (PIID)

To All Fellows of Hong Kong College of Paediatricians

Please spend a few minutes to read this IMPORTANT announcement about the Accreditation of the Subspecialty of **Paediatric Immunology and Infectious Diseases (PIID)**, and the call for application of FIRST FELLOW.

The Hong Kong College of Paediatricians recognized the importance of developing various subspecialties to streamline tertiary and quaternary paediatric practice and to prepare for the establishment of Centre of Excellence in Paediatrics. Through the effort of the Working Group for the Accreditation of Paediatric Subspecialties in Hong Kong, the College has established a fair and open mechanism for accreditation of subspecialties.

The College has received an application for the accreditation of the PIID subspecialty. After careful consideration by the Working Group and a period of open consultation to all Fellows, the College Council has recently agreed to start the formal process of accreditation. The whole process will be stringent and subject to scrutiny by an independent overseas expert in the field and the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine. It will result in the setting up of the relevant Subspecialty Board, training and accreditation guidelines, training programmes with accredited training centres and trainers. Future trainees will have to go through such a training programme before being recognized as a subspecialist. Colleagues may have questions about the name of subspecialist qualifications and the quotability of such qualifications. You are invited to read the attached Appendix 1 and 2 on “Frequently asked questions on quotability of First Fellow of a Subspecialty” and “Guidelines for Admission of First Fellows in New Subspecialty”.

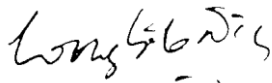
To start the Accreditation process, the College would like to call for applications from all Fellows interested in being accredited as First Fellows in the subspecialty of **Paediatric Immunology and Infectious Diseases (PIID)**. The First Fellows Application Form is attached. To enable financial viability of the Subspecialty, the College has decided to levy a First Fellows Application Fee of \$3000 for each application. A further First Fellows Admission Fee of \$7000 is applicable for each successful application and admission of First Fellows in the Subspecialty.

Interested Fellows please submit the following to the College Honorary Secretary at Room 801, Hong

Kong Academy of Medicine Jockey Club Building, Wong Chuk Hang Road, Hong Kong **on or before 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2011:**

1. The First Fellows Application Form (which should be duly signed);
2. Documentary evidence of your supervised training (please give reason if not available);
3. A brief curriculum vitae highlighting your relevant subspecialty experience; and
4. A cheque of \$ 3000 (payable to “Hong Kong College of Paediatricians”).

If you are interested to know more about the process of subspecialty accreditation, please contact the undersigned or the College secretariat for more information.



Dr Wong Sik Nin

Secretary

For Dr Chan Chok Wan

Chairman, Working Group for Accreditation of Paediatric Subspecialties

Attached documents:

Appendix 1: Frequently asked questions on quotability of First Fellow of a Subspecialty.

Appendix 2: Guidelines for admission of “First Fellows” in a new subspecialty

Application Form for First Fellows of the Subspecialty of Paediatric Immunology and Infectious Diseases

## Frequently Asked Questions on Quotability of First Fellow of a Subspecialty

Frequently encountered questions	Latest reply by HKAM in Oct 2010:
If our Fellow has completed training in both General Paediatrics and a paediatric subspecialty e.g. paediatric cardiology:	
1. At the level of Specialist Registry, he/she can choose to be included in either the register of Specialist in Paediatrics or Specialist in Paediatric Cardiology, but not both. Is this true?	<i>Correct</i>
2. He/she can change between the two registries at any time. How often can he/she change registries?	<i>Any doctor can apply to MCHK to change specialty in Specialist Registry, but he would need to be removed from the registered specialty first before he can be entered for a new specialty. I am not aware of any time restriction. But it normally takes a few months for the process, as MCHK would need to check with HKAM whether the Fellow/doctor is eligible for the specialty being applied (we have to go through HKAM Council), then MCHK has to go through the EAC and MCHK main Council.</i>
3. At the Academy Fellowship level, he/she will only be awarded one Academy Fellowship – i.e. FHKAM(Paediatrics). Is this true?	<i>Correct. At the Academy, we only have 15 types of Fellowship.</i>
4. Will the Academy award double Academy Fellowships e.g. FHKAM(Paediatrics) and FHKAM(Paediatric Cardiology)?	<i>No. Double Fellowship is possible only for “cross-college” Fellowship, as mentioned above we only have 15 Fellowship at the Academy level – one for each College.</i>
5. At the College Fellowship level, can the College award double Fellowships to this Fellow – i.e. both FHKCPaed and FHKCPaed (Paediatric Cardiology)?	<i>It is up to your College to decide, as long as your constitutions allow it. Additional comments: Before a new specialty can be included in SR, the specialty must be approved by the Academy EC. After HKAM Council endorsed the new specialty, Academy would write to MCHK to recommend including the new specialty in the SR.</i>

The College has recommended the term “Board Certified in [Subspecialty]” for newly accredited Fellows in the Subspecialty. Is this title quotable?

The quotability of a professional qualification is decided by the Medical Council of Hong Kong, basing on 1) at least 6 months of full time structured and supervised training or study; and 2) formal assessment by a recognized medical body or independently vetted (e.g. external examiner) by a recognized medical body. It is unlikely that a First Fellow can quote this title because he/she did not undergo an examination to get such a degree. Future graduates who have undergone the subspecialty training programme and Board examination can apply to quote such a degree.

### **Guidelines for Admission of “First Fellows” in New Subspecialty**

**(1) Name**

The terminology “First Fellow” will be used for the first batch of Fellows admitted in a new subspecialty.

**(2) Admission criteria**

A First Fellow must satisfy **all** of the following: -

- a) be a Fellow of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine;
- b) has satisfied the College that his training and/or clinical competence is comparable in quality and standard to be required for a Fellow in the new subspecialty;
- c) has satisfied the College that he has a minimum period of good practice in the field of the new subspecialty. The period should be twice of the duration required for a formal subspecialty training programme. The standard of such practice or supervision must be assessed as satisfactory by the College for the purpose of accreditation;
- d) has passed an assessment by the College. The assessment shall be based on criteria comparable to that required for Fellowship in the new subspecialty obtained via the approved formal training programme. The assessment should preferably be conducted by a panel consisting of at least one external independent member.

**(3) Cut-off date**

- a) Colleges should cease to admit First Fellows when their formal training programme has started; and
- b) the training programme should start *within 24 months* after approval of the new subspecialty by the Academy Council.

**(4) Fellows having substantial subspecialty experience but not meeting admission criteria at the cut-off date**

For those Fellows who have acquired substantial subspecialty experience but not met the Admission Criteria as stated in paragraph 2 above at the cut-off date, there is a special one-off arrangement for them to become Fellows in the new subspecialty provided they have fulfilled all of the following conditions, namely that they:-

- a) have already fulfilled *at least 75%* of the requirement as stated in 2(c) above, whether in terms of the duration of good practice, number of patients treated or operated and experience required by the College, at the cut-off date as stated in paragraph 3;
- b) have registered with the College on or before the cut-off date of their intention to follow this special one-off arrangement;
- c) will undergo a supervised training programme, content and format to be decided by the College, to make up for the shortage of experience/exposure requirements as stated in 2(c) above. All make-up programmes must be completed before the First Exit Examination takes place;
- d) have to pass the normal Exit Examination of the subspecialty.

College will submit a list of these College Fellows to the Academy within 1 month after the cut-off date. The provisions under this one-off arrangement cease to be in force once the Exit Examination of the subspecialty has been in place.